

## Settings for Each Act of Carmen

### Act One

A square in Seville (Spain) around 1820. On the right side of the stage is a door leading to a cigarette factory. Crossing the entire stage at the back is a bridge that is sturdy enough for actors to walk upon. At the right, near the door to the factory, is a spiral stairway leading to the bridge. At the left is a guardhouse with balconies that rises two or three stories. A rack in front of the guardhouse serves as a place for the soldiers to lean their lances and pennants.

As the curtain rises, about 15 soldiers are standing in front of the guardhouse. Some are seated, smoking; others are leaning over the balustrades of the balcony. The square is lively with people walking back and forth, greeting one another.

### Act Two

Lillas Pastia's tavern. There are tables to the left and right. As the curtain rises, Carmen, her gypsy girl friends Mercedes and Frasquita, Captain Zuniga, and other soldiers have just finished eating. The table is in disarray. The officers and

gypsies are smoking cigarettes. Two gypsy men play guitars in a corner of the tavern while two gypsy women dance in the middle of the floor. Carmen is seated watching the gypsies dance; the captain is talking to her in a low voice but she does not give him her attention.

### Act Three

A wild place in the mountains, picturesque and savage. Gigantic rock formations descend from the sides and rear of the stage. It is a dark night and the stage is completely empty. During the musical prelude, gypsy smugglers appear here and there, climbing among the rocks. The men are carrying contraband goods in large bales upon their backs.

### Act Four

Another square in Seville. At the back, the high, thick walls of an ancient amphitheatre. A long canvas curtain is drawn across the entrance. It is the day of the bullfight, and crowds of people are waiting to see the festive procession of the bullfighters. Street peddlers move among the crowds selling fans, programs, oranges, and cigarettes.

## Storyboard for Acts Three and Four

The pictures and captions above tell the story of the opera in Acts Three and Four, but they have been jumbled. Cut out the pictures and place them in an order so that the events in each act make sense.

## Storyboard for Acts One and Two

Following are captions that describe the major events in Acts One and Two. Create your own pictures to interpret these captions, then put your storyboard in an order that makes sense dramatically.

Act 1: Micaela gives Don José a letter from his mother.

Act 1: The guards admire the girls from the cigarette factory, especially Carmen.

Act 1: Carmen, who has persuaded Don José to help her escape, pushes him down and runs away.

Act 1: In a busy square, Micaela asks the guards where she can find José.

Act 1: Carmen is blamed for a fight in the cigarette factory and is tied up by José.

Act 1: Carmen spots Don José, who ignores her, and throws him a flower to attract his attention.

Act 2: Captain Zuniga tells Don José to go back to his quarters for roll call, but he refuses.

Act 2: Escamillo meets Carmen and declares his love for her.

Act 2: At Lillas Pastia's tavern, Escamillo, the triumphant torador, toasts the soldiers and gypsies.

Act 2: José shows Carmen that he still has the flower she threw at him — proof of his love.

Act 2: José is invited to join the gypsy gang and live under the open sky — free.

Act 2: Don José, fresh out of prison — having been punished for letting Carmen escape — joins her at Lillas Pastia's tavern.